

rural areas who may not have multiple pharmacies near them and for women from low-income communities who lack the resources to find another pharmacy in the appropriate time. Women from all walks of life are being traumatized and humiliated at the hands of pharmacists who are denying them their right to contraception based on their own personal beliefs.

The Access to Birth Control, ABC, Act is an important step in protecting a woman's constitutional right to contraception. Birth control and emergency contraception are part of women's basic health care and pharmacists should not have the right to interfere.

AMERICA COMPETES
REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2010

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5116) to invest in innovation through research and development, to improve the competitiveness of the United States, and for other purposes:

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Chair, in 2007, Congress responded to the recommendations of many experts that the federal government must increase its investment in basic research and in science and math education by passing the America COMPETES Act. The reauthorization before us today continues the United States on the path of investing in programs that will keep the U.S. competitive in the global economy.

Beginning in 2006, President Bush's American Competitiveness Initiative (ACI) launched a three-pronged approach to competitiveness by strengthening research at the National Science Foundation, the Office of Science at the Department of Energy, and the laboratories and construction of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, NIST. The America COMPETES Act of 2007 established a 7-year doubling funding pathway for these agencies and also included some new ideas, such as the establishment of a DARPA-like agency at the Department of Energy. ARPA-E is still in its infancy, but testimony before the Science and Technology Committee indicates that this agency has the potential to overcome some of the greatest hurdles to commercialization of innovative energy technologies. The reauthorization bill provides more flexibility to ARPA-E and increases its authorization in future years.

The reauthorization measure before us today also focuses on the challenges facing our nation's manufacturers by broadening and strengthening manufacturing extension services and reviving manufacturing innovation through research and development. Although manufacturing has experienced tremendous technological gains over the last few years, international competition has exacted a toll on our Nation's manufacturers. Furthermore, today's economy has placed a great strain on States to participate in federal programs like the Manufacturing Extension Partnership at NIST. This bill would temporarily relax the cost-share requirements on States to allow for

continued participation of the greatest number of small manufacturers across the Nation who depend on this program to help them continually innovate.

I recognize that many of my colleagues are concerned that this bill authorizes spending more than \$80 billion over the next 5 years. Indeed, our economy is suffering, we are deeply in debt, and fiscal restraint must be exercised. However, if there is ever an investment that will guarantee an economic return, this is it.

The reality is that if we are unwilling to spend this money now, we are deciding to pay it later to other countries that make these investments today and produce the products that we will need tomorrow. A recent article in *The Economist* focused on emerging international markets, and noted that:

Last year productivity in China grew by 8.2%, compared with a rise of 1.0% in America and a decline of 2.8% in Britain. A few years ago Airbus and Boeing were willing to outsource only basic work to Indian firms, but now they entrust some of their most complicated tasks to them.

Other countries are now competing with us not only on cost, but also creativity. We have thought for years that there are certain innovative activities that will only happen in the United States, but I feel less certain that is still the case. To keep on the cutting edge of creativity, we must make these investments in science and technology, or we will simply be left behind.

Science and technology are the fundamental movers of our economy, and if we want to remain globally competitive, this bill is the surefire way to guarantee results. The dividends paid by training scientists, engineers, and teachers will multiply throughout all sectors of our economy.

I want to thank Chairman GORDON and Ranking Member HALL for working on this legislation. I hope my colleagues will support this investment in our Nation's future.

HONORING GUERNEVILLE SCHOOL
DISTRICT

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2010

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Guerneville School District on the occasion of its 150th anniversary. The school can trace its history to several separate one-room schools in Russian River communities in Sonoma County, CA. The earliest was founded in 1860, and the last one merged into the Guerneville School District in 1955.

The direct forerunner of the school opened its doors in the old-time logging town of Guerneville on First Street, in a building which now houses the Sonoma County Veterans' Memorial Hall. There were four classrooms serving students in first through eighth grades. In 1949 the school moved to its current location, one mile north on Armstrong Woods Road.

Guerneville School District operates from the Armstrong Woods Road site today, although it has gone through many transformations to raise it above flood level and to gradually replace the original rooms with spa-

cious classrooms, offices, gymnasium, library, and computer lab, as well as a modern play yard. Today it houses students in grades K–8.

But the school's biggest asset is its community of students, parents, and staff who work together to create a learning environment that addresses the whole student. To achieve this, Guerneville School District offers "a campus that is friendly, safe, and welcoming; a district that accepts and is committed to diversity; and an educational environment that promotes unity of staff on both professional and community levels."

The school also works in partnership with the larger community to impart a sense of citizenship to the students and secure local support. One of its programs, Circle of Sisters, was started as a pilot project by St. Joseph Health System to promote the self esteem of middle school girls; Circle of Sisters was such a success that it has been replicated around the area.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate the Guerneville School District and all of its family, friends, alumni, students, and staff as they celebrate this momentous occasion. Happy 150th birthday!

RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANT
ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF AMERICORPS

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2010

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor AmeriCorps Week, and the nearly 12,000 Oregonians who are AmeriCorp alumni that have pledged to "get things done for America" since the program began in 1994.

Whereas service to others is a hallmark of the American character, and throughout our history citizens have stepped up to meet our challenges by volunteering in their communities; and

Whereas those AmeriCorps members have served more than 774 million hours nationwide, including 14,388,200 served by residents from Oregon, helping to improve the lives of our State's most vulnerable citizens, strengthen our educational system; protect our environment, and contribute to our public safety; and;

Whereas the Corporation for National and Community Service State Office and Oregon Volunteers! Commission on Voluntary Action and Service play a key role in determining where AmeriCorps resources should be directed to meet State and local needs; and

Whereas residents of Oregon have earned more than \$32,097,912 in Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards to help pay for college or pay back student loans; and

Whereas AmeriCorps members, after their terms of service end, remain engaged in our communities as volunteers, teachers, public servants, and nonprofit leaders in disproportionately high levels; and

Whereas last year I cosponsored and helped pass the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act which sets AmeriCorps on a path to grow to 250,000 members by the year 2017 and focuses AmeriCorps on critical national